

## D28 Orchestra, Band, and Choir

# FAQ for Fall, 2020

With the return of school and concerns around COVID-19, the music directors have compiled this FAQ to assist parents and families as they make decisions regarding band, orchestra, and choir participation for the 2020-2021 school year.

*The band, orchestra, and choir programs are prepared to support families choosing in-person learning, and those choosing remote learning.*

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### Safety Protocols

- Our programs will be adhering to, and many cases exceeding, the safety recommendations provided by Northbrook School District 28, ISBE/IDPH, the National Association for Music Education, the American String Teachers Association, the American Choral Directors Association, and the Percussive Arts Society.
- All rehearsals and lessons will adhere to social distancing guidelines, mask protocol, and sanitization procedures to protect students.
- Ongoing scientific research is being conducted at University of Colorado-Boulder, examining the production of aerosols in music activities. Our music faculty are closely monitoring the progress of this study, and adjusting mitigation strategies to meet best practices.
- Use of masks in lessons/rehearsals:
  - Orchestra: students will wear masks in both lessons and rehearsals.
  - Choir: students will receive a [special mask](#) designed for use in choral ensembles
  - Band: students performing on wind instruments will use modified masks; percussion students will wear masks at all times.

### Instrumental Music Lessons

- Orchestra and band lessons will continue to be offered at the elementary schools and NBJH. The music directors are working closely with District 28 administrators to

evaluate teaching space availability and scheduling options.

- Our goal is to offer the same high-quality lesson instruction that is the hallmark of our orchestra and band programs. We are developing plans that afford all grade levels equity in addressing their needs, based on their stage of musical development.

### **Before-School Rehearsals**

- Before-school rehearsals will continue for orchestra, band, and choir. We are adapting our schedules and logistics to ensure the safety of our students.
- Students will attend morning rehearsals at their respective schools; students will not travel between school buildings for music instruction.
- Weather permitting, band and choir rehearsals will be held outdoors in large tents located at each school.
- Rehearsals schedules will be modified in frequency and duration, to limit the numbers of students together simultaneously and the length of their potential exposure. Music directors will share detailed information at the start of the school year.
- Each student will have an assigned music stand, and will use their own sheet music and handouts.
- In addition to social distancing guidelines for students, directors will maintain a 10-foot spacing from students when leading the group.

### **Concerts/Performances**

- Concerts and performances are an essential part of the student musicians' experience. These events are celebrations, showcasing student learning and growth, and sharing the joy of music-making.
- Current guidelines and safety protocols prohibit large gatherings, which have been the typical format for our concerts and performances in the past.
- The music directors are committed to exploring new formats and opportunities, reimaging **how** students share their learning while ensuring for their safety.
- More information on performance formats and schedules will be shared with students and families later in the fall.

### **Recruiting for NEW Band and Orchestra Students**

- Students entering 3rd grade will have the opportunity to join the orchestra program. Students entering 4th grade will have the opportunity to join the band program.
- We are developing a new instrument selection and registration process for the 3rd and 4th grade families. This new process will be a convenient, “contactless” solution, providing essential information to guide student choice, and supporting parents as they consider this commitment for their child.
- Information will be shared with 3rd and 4th grade families prior to the start of the school year.